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Curriculum Committee Report - April 1, 2010

Graduate Council

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Thursday April 1, 2010	Graduate Curriculum Committee Meeting	3:30p.m. Law Library Rare Books Room
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REPORT

Present: Sibyl Marshall (Chair), Vincent Anfara, Ed Caudill, Catherine Cox, Don Cox, Tom George, Tom Heffernan, Jan Lee, John Ma, Jim Phillips, George Siopsis.

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 p.m. by Sibyl Marshall.

The committee voted to approve the proposal from the College of Nursing and recommend that Graduate Council approve the new Doctor of Nursing Practice degree program along with 10 new courses.

The meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

▲ Indicates major/degree being added.

COLLEGE OF NURSING

All changes effective Spring 2011

COURSE CHANGES

ADD

620 Philosophy of Scientific Practice (3) A critical examination of the philosophical, historical, and theoretical context of knowledge.

Registration Restriction: Doctor of Nursing Practice – nursing major.

622 Methods for Translational Research (3) Provide students with methods and tools for evaluating the strength of existing evidence through meta-synthesis and meta-analysis and testing application of interventions.

Registration Restriction: Doctor of Nursing Practice – nursing major; Doctor of Philosophy – nursing major.

623 Bioethics, Cultural and Societal Issues within Healthcare (2) A critical analysis of ethical, diversity and social issues within healthcare systems.

Registration Restriction: Doctor of Nursing Practice – nursing major; Doctor of Philosophy – nursing major.

624 Evidence-Based Practice and Use of Information Technology (3) Provide students with knowledge and tools to design and implement evidence-based practice in health care systems. Emphasis on critical examination, synthesis and application of evidence in support of high quality practices.

(RE) Prerequisite(s): 622.

Registration Restriction: Doctor of Nursing Practice – nursing major; Doctor of Philosophy – nursing major.

625 Healthcare Economics (3) Critical analysis of economics in health and healthcare focusing on the healthcare market, financing, and delivery in the United States.

Registration Restriction: Doctor of Nursing Practice – nursing major; Doctor of Philosophy – nursing major.

630 Project Organization Seminar (1) Conceptualization, analysis, and critical assessment of a clinical problem.

Registration Restriction: Doctor of Nursing Practice – nursing major

631 Advanced Practice Option I (2) Application of advanced practice nursing concepts in area of clinical focus.

Contact Hour Distribution: 1 directed study and 1 practicum.

Grading Restriction(s): Satisfactory/no credit or letter grade.

(RE) Prerequisite(s): 620 and 630.

(DE) Prerequisite(s): 613.

(DE) Prerequisite(s) or (DE) Corequisite(s): 612 and 623.

Registration Restriction: Doctor of Nursing Practice – nursing major.

632 Advanced Practice Option II (4) Field experiences in areas of clinical focus and planning for capstone project.

Contact Hour Distribution: 2 directed study and 2 practicum.

Grading Restriction(s): Satisfactory/no credit or letter grade.

(RE) Prerequisite(s): 631.

(DE) Prerequisite(s): 613.

(DE) Prerequisite(s) or (DE) Corequisite(s): 624 and 625.

Registration Restriction: Doctor of Nursing Practice – nursing major.

633 DNP Practice Immersion (6-12) Individually designed practicum, field, or internship experiences in a variety of administrative, educational, research, or clinical practice settings.

Grading Restriction(s): Satisfactory/no credit.

(RE) Prerequisite(s): 632.

(DE) Prerequisite(s) or (DE) Corequisite(s): 612 and 613.

Registration Restriction: Doctor of Nursing Practice – nursing major.

634 DNP Capstone (3) Preparation of a tangible and deliverable academic product derived from the practice immersion experience contained in the DNP student's program of study.

(RE) Prerequisite(s) or (RE) Corequisite(s): 633.

Registration Restriction: Doctor of Nursing Practice – nursing major.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION:

Rationale: These are required courses for the new DNP degree. Course format and location: Courses will be offered on-campus and through distance education modalities, to accommodate professional graduate students. Impact on other academic units: The College of Nursing (CON) anticipates admitting a cohort of ten students each year. Because existing epidemiology courses through CEHHS are already over-subscribed, the CON has a paid an adjunct faculty member to teach epidemiology. We anticipate existing graduate inferential statistics courses will be able to accommodate these students. Financial impact: Implementing the DNP degree program will require three new faculty positions. This funding request has been made known to the Provost and is part of the financial plan in the THEC proposal.



THE UNIVERSITY of TENNESSEE
Vice President for Academic Affairs & Student Success

P267 Andy Holt Tower
Knoxville, TN 37996
Phone: (865) 974-6289

March 31, 2008

MEMORANDUM

TO: Dean Joan Cresia

FROM: Katie High
Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs and Student Success

SUBJECT: UT Knoxville College of Nursing

I have received from the College of Nursing a Notification of Intent to establish a Doctor of Nursing Practice degree. I have transmitted the Notification of Intent to the Tennessee Higher Education Commission. The Commission has instructed the College of Nursing to proceed with a proposal.

Once the proposal is approved by the appropriate administrative channels within UT Knoxville, a consultant will review it. It will then be placed on the agenda for the UT Board of Trustees. Once approved by the Board, it will proceed to the Higher Education Commission for approval.

Please contact me should you have questions.

C: Ken Phillips
Jan Lee

PROGRAM CHANGES

- ▲ ADD DEGREE
DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE DEGREE – NURSING MAJOR (PENDING THEC APPROVAL)

Insert in the 2011-2012 *Graduate Catalog* text and requirements for the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree.

Nursing Major – Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP)

The College of Nursing offers the Doctor of Nursing Practice degree (DNP), designed for MSN or BSN graduates who are interested in earning a clinical doctoral degree in nursing. At the completion of the DNP program, students will be able to:

1. Integrate nursing science with other disciplines as the basis for the highest level of evidence-based nursing practice.
2. Demonstrate professionalism, advocacy, ethical principles, and scientific integrity in advanced nursing practice.
3. Provide collaborative leadership in the development of clinical practice models, health policy, and standards of care, for diverse populations.
4. Generate system and outcomes research and analyze other evidence to guide improvements in practice.
5. Utilize information systems/technology to support and improve nursing care and healthcare systems, and prevent illness and disability.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

1. Meet requirements for admission to the Graduate School.
2. Hold a Bachelor's or a Master's degree in nursing from a program accredited by the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission or the Collegiate Commission on Nursing Education.
3. Have a minimum cumulative graduate grade-point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale for previous college work.
4. Have achieved a competitive score on the verbal and quantitative portions of the Graduate Record Examination.
5. Have TOEFL scores of at least 550 on the paper test, 213 on the computer-based test, or 80 on the internet-based test if native language is not English.
6. Complete College of Nursing Graduate Program Data Form.
7. Submit College of Nursing Graduate Rating Forms from three college level instructors and/or nurses and administrators who have supervised applicant's professional work.
8. Submit an essay describing personal and professional aspirations.
9. Schedule a personal interview with the College of Nursing DNP Admissions committee. International applicants may be interviewed by telephone or teleconferencing at the discretion of the admissions committee.
10. See College of Nursing website (www.nursing.utk.edu) for current application deadlines and additional information on admission procedures.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS AND POLICIES

1. Prior to enrollment in the DNP program, each student must successfully complete a criminal background check and drug screening.
2. Each student must hold personal professional liability insurance and health insurance.
3. As Registered Nurses, DNP students must be eligible to practice nursing in Tennessee, i.e., licensed in Tennessee or one of the inter-state compact states.
4. Each student must present evidence of meeting current health requirements. See College of Nursing website, www.nursing.utk.edu.
5. Each student must present evidence of current health care provider CPR certification.
6. A maximum of 6 graduate hours taken before acceptance into the DNP program may be applied toward the degree.
7. A minimum grade of B in all DNP nursing courses and a 3.00 cumulative GPA is required for continuation in the program.

Requirements

The following courses are required for all students.

	Hours Credit
612 Health and Nursing Policy/Planning	3
613 Nursing Leadership in Complex Systems	3
620 Philosophy of Scientific Practice	3
622 Methods for Translational Research	3
623 Bioethics, Cultural and Societal Issues within Healthcare	2
624 Evidence-Based Practice and Use of Information Technology	3
625 Healthcare Economics	3
630 Project Organization Seminar	1
631 Advanced Practice Option I	2
632 Advanced Practice Option II	4
633 DNP Practice Immersion	6-12
634 DNP Capstone	3
----- Epidemiology	3
----- Inferential Statistics	3
Total	42-48

Students will be admitted to candidacy after successfully passing a comprehensive examination and defending the capstone project proposal. The capstone project produces a tangible and deliverable academic product that is derived from the practice immersion experience and is reviewed and evaluated by an academic committee. The capstone project committee is composed of a minimum of two doctorally-prepared (DNP or PhD) faculty. When appropriate, a third committee member may be selected, who holds special expertise relative to the specific project. The third member may be a faculty member from another academic unit, or external to the university.

Supporting Information:

Rationale: The Doctor of Nursing Practice Program (DNP) is designed for MSN or BSN graduates who are interested in earning a clinical doctoral degree in nursing. The primary focus of the DNP Program is clinical expertise. The explosion of information, the introduction of new technologies, the emergence of new scientific evidence to guide practice, and the increased complexities of health care have caused the nursing profession and other health care provider groups to examine the optimal length of a program to adequately educate an advanced practice nurse. The consensus is that clinical education beyond the master's level is required.

The DNP program will prepare nurses to practice in a clinical specialty at the highest level of professional competence. The DNP Program is a rigorous program that merges evidence-based practice, inquiry into practice, and leadership competencies. Advanced clinical practice will be supported by courses in health policy and planning, leadership in complex systems, epidemiology, meta-analysis, translational research, and a capstone project. Immersion in an area of clinical practice is the hallmark of this program and a minimum of 1000 practice hours are required (a minimum of 500 practice hours beyond the master's degree).

The DNP is also needed to address the national shortage of nursing faculty. A 2005 report, *Advancing the Nation's Health Needs: NIH Research Training Programs*, from the National Academy of Sciences called for nursing to develop a "non-research clinical doctorate" to prepare expert practitioners who can also serve as clinical faculty. DNP graduates who assume clinical faculty positions will be essential to increasing BSN enrollment to meet society's need to address a critical national nursing shortage. Programs in nursing have produced fewer than 450 PhD graduates per year since the early 1990s. Nursing schools turned away almost 43,000 qualified applicants due to insufficient number of faculty.

A needs assessment has been completed. A survey was mailed to all graduates of the UTK MSN program (n=812). Of the 185 who responded, 126 (68%) indicated they were interested in returning to school for a DNP degree. Of these 126, 83 (66%) were ready to return "immediately" or "within 2 years" to earn this clinical doctorate. Over 80% of these interested potential DNP students want a program that provides a mix of onsite and distance-independent instruction.

The proposal for this new doctoral degree is in final stages of preparation for THEC. This proposal was approved by the Graduate Council on April 24, 2008. Dr. John Peterson, President of the University of Tennessee, tabled the proposal and did not include it on the Agenda for the Board of Trustees.

The College of Nursing, with the support of the campus and systems administrations, is working with THEC and the system to have this program created for spring 2011.

THEC and the UT Vice President for Academic Affairs and Student Success are supporting this program in conjunction with the DNP program being proposed at UT Chattanooga. THEC and the UT System have conducted an external evaluation for the DNP proposed programs.